

Recommendations to
The Newark Human Rights Commission
Mayor Hugh J. Addonizio and
The Newark Municipal Council
At a Regular Meeting of
The Newark Human Rights Commission
March 19, 1963

by

Daniel S. Anthony,
Executive Director

HUMAN RENEWAL COMES FIRST

The argument for or against a Police Advisory Board is consuming the time and energies of too many people who ought to be going about their business of making Newark a better place for all of us to live in.

If our crime rate is among the highest in the nation, I am sure the Police Department has much to occupy its energies. If our out-of-school and unemployed youth number 8,000 Negro, 1,000 Puerto Rican and 1,000 white -- 10,000 in this area -- then I suggest these more important matters should occupy the time of the Newark Human Rights Commission.

I am personally in favor of turning over the eventual decision on a Police Advisory Board to the Mayor and Corporation Counsel of Newark, so that the Human Rights Commission can get back to its business of creating greater opportunities for our deprived citizens, and yes, our denied policemen too.

The magnitude of the task of human renewal is the major obligation facing all agencies in this City. The rising crime rate in Newark has been attributed to "our changing population". I am inclined to believe that if this "changing population" has anything to do with Newark's crime rate, it is a symptom of a national urban illness which has roots stretching back to slavery and the Emancipation Proclamation.

If cities like Newark are to be socially improved -- or even to remain moderately functional --, massive state and federal financial assistance is called for at once.

Money and workers alone are insufficient. We must all begin to get a better understanding of the problems which underlie the present conditions. We must be willing to admit that Newark has become a socially deprived city.

It is the center of 10,000 out-of-school and unemployed youth. These youngsters must be shown a new way of life. We must help them find a new hope for self-realization, but even more important -- for self survival. If we can arrive at a solution for these youngsters, we shall not have to support them in our jails and mental institutions ten years from now.

If we cannot start today to give all our deprived and denied children a better than equal educational break in these next 10 or 12 vital years, the situation will deteriorate and the tax rate will have to rise.

Five years ago, the Newark Human Rights Commission printed a 3 volume study, -- "Newark, A City in Transition" -- exposing many of these growing problems, but at that time, no one bothered to read or heed the suggestions it offered. Today, I believe we have a more sympathetic City Administration and Council.

Today, therefore, is the time to begin an active attack on our problems. Quite bluntly, for Newark to get on its feet socially, educationally and therefore economically, the state and federal governments will have to begin to support an emergency upgrading and acculturation program for our youth. We shall need Fifty to One Hundred Million Dollars in the next 10 years to help defray the increased costs of educating and revitalizing young people and adults who have been and still are ill-prepared for mid-20th century automated living.

Since the Emancipation Proclamation, the 100 years of apathy and indifference to full equal rights for all citizens/^{have}now come home to haunt us. The price is great, but without an honest re-evaluation of our present educational, occupational and housing habits, the social ills of today may well become the national catastrophes of tomorrow.

The Ordinance under which we operate was made a part of our City Charter to help right the wrongs of our forefathers. Our mandate is to reduce prejudice and discrimination wherever it exists.

In a small way, I believe the Newark Human Rights Commission can help to stem the anti-social tide which is inundating Newark. As Director of this Agency, I am making a few practical recommendations which might begin to ameliorate our expanding human problems. They are:

1. That the Mayor and Council give the Newark Human Rights Commission the power and professional staff necessary to take a leadership role in solving the civil rights and human renewal problems of our City. If new legislation is called for, we shall seek it.
2. That the City Council approve Mayor Addonizio's plan to make Samuel Convissor coordinator of youth activities in Newark as well as coordinator of the South Side Expanded Opportunity Project.
3. That the City Council and Board of Education find ways to give economic support to South Side's Expanded Opportunities Program so that Rutgers University may begin to get equal support from private foundations and the Federal Government.
4. And finally, that the City Administration and Council seek massive federal and state financial aid to solve the social inequities and imbalances in Newark's economy. Central cities can no longer pay the freight for society's ills. The human renewal of our denied and disadvantaged citizens must be shared equally by Federal, State and City Governments. President Kennedy has promised to ask Congress to help our de facto segregated urban centers. We must call upon Congress for just such assistance.

Without a growing sensitivity to the human needs of our residents, much of our redevelopment will have been in vain.

The Mayor and Council are doing their best to rebuild our City; we are offering them our suggestions and assistance in revitalizing the lives of our residents.

May we be authorized to fulfill our function?